

Middlekauf Farm  
Antietam National Battlefield  
Sharpsburg Vicinity  
Washington County  
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-949

HABS  
MD,  
22 SHARPS,  
29-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MIDDLEKAUF FARM

HABS NO. MD-949

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MD,  
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29-

Location: East of Hagerstown Pike (MD Rt. 65), North of Sharpsburg, Sharpsburg Vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Significance: This building gains its significance through its vernacular stone construction and its relationship to the Civil War Battle of Antietam Creek.

Description: The Middlekauf Farm consists of three significant structures. The first, the main farmhouse, is a two-story, four-bay stone structure which faces west. It is built of coursed local limestone on ground which slopes to the east. A double porch which is included under the main roof, extends along the front elevation. Two doors open onto the porch, one from each floor, and an outer stairwell provides further access to the second-story. The roof is side-gabled and covered with wood shingles. Small brick interior chimneys appear to have replaced the originals and are located inside each gable end. The windows are six-over-six-light sash.

The secondary farmhouse sits just northwest of the main house and is constructed in two sections, one brick and one stone. The older brick section is a one-story, three-bay dwelling built of Flemish bond at the west and south elevations and English bond on the north. An exterior brick chimney is located at the west gable end. Two six-over-six-light sash gabled dormers are situated in the front elevation of its side-gabled roof. Attached to the east end of the brick dwelling is a two-bay, one-story stone addition. A massive stone chimney with a stone corbel is located inside the east end wall. Its slightly recessed, side-gabled roof has two smaller gabled dormers.

The third structure, a large frame bank barn set on fieldstone foundations, is located west of the main house. Facing south, a pair of projecting dormers project above its forebay.

History: Judging from similar structures in the Sharpsburg vicinity, it would appear that the main Middlekauf house was built in the early nineteenth century. Particularly revealing are its stone construction, double front elevation porch, and side-gabled roof.

Although the house and barn were used as field hospitals after the Battle of Antietam, recent evidence refutes the former belief that this was

History: Clara Barton's hospital. (see Samuel Poffenberger Farm, HABS NO. MD-964) Records of the U.S. Sanitary Commission indicate that patients at the Middlekauf farm hospital were from Banks' and Hooker's commands and that the hospital served 100-300 patients with Dr. J. Hayward of Boston in charge.

Sources: Antietam National Battlefield Site, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1981

Historian: Martha V. Wagner  
HABS  
1991